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# COINS

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## New funny money is really no joke

By Roger Boye

**S**everal East Coast collectors have found authentic \$10 bills in circulation that look almost like play money because of an unusual printing mistake.

Dealers say the bills are worth several times face value as collectors' items; although an expert quoted in *Coin World* advised hobbyists not to "mortgage the farm" in order to buy the misprinted bills that might be offered for sale.

On the series 1977A bills, the green Treasury seal and serial numbers, as well as the black Federal Reserve seal, are printed on the back side, rather than on the front as normal. Conceivably, some of the error bills could turn up in the Chicago area.

At least 144 such notes got into circulation, according to an executive at the government's Bureau of Engraving and Printing. But a New York dealer

told *Coin World* that the number of bills in circulation might be much higher than 144, based on an analysis he did of serial numbers.

Such error bills in uncirculated condition could be worth more than \$200 each, according to a widely used catalog. But the more such bills that hobbyists find in circulation, the lower the prices on the collector market.

The newest misprints join a rash of other error bills produced in 1978 and 1979.

Government bureaucrats plan to install new scanning equipment that may greatly reduce the number of misprinted bills reaching circulation.

● Many dealers in the Chicago area have started to sell the 39th edition of one of the hobby's oldest annually published coin books, "Handbook of U.S. Coins," by R. S. Yeoman.

Often dubbed the "Blue Book," the reference lists the current wholesale or "dealer buying prices" for all U.S. coins. The \$3.50 book is a companion to Yeoman's "Guide Book of U.S. Coins"—the "Red Book"—that lists retail coin prices.